

ZOOLOGY.—*Two new parasitic worms of Didelphys aurita: Skrjabino-
nifilaria pricei n. sp. and Gongylonema marsupialis n. sp.*¹
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Paulo, Brasil. (Communicated by BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ.)

Dr. Flavio da Fonseca of the Instituto Butantan, S. Paulo, has kindly sent us for study three lots of nematodes collected during post-mortem examination of *Didelphys aurita*. One of the lots contained some specimens of a Metastrongylidae, *Heterostrongylus heterostrongylus* Travassos,² 1925, taken from the lungs. The contents of the second lot were taken from the subcutaneous tissue and proved to be a new filarid worm. The third contained a few specimens of a *Gongylonema* which appear to us to be a new species.

*Skrjabino-
nifilaria pricei n. sp.*

Fig. 1.

This new species can be included in the genus *Skrjabino-
nifilaria* erected by Travassos, 1925, for a filarid worm parasitic in the subcutaneous tissue of the opossum. *S. pricei* is distinguished from *S. skrjabini* by the following characters: (1) shape of the anterior extremity, (2) absence of buccal capsule, (3) position of the vulva, (4) trifold tip of the tail in *S. pricei*, (5) absence of caudal alae, (6) number of caudal papillae.

Length: male 27–30 mm., female, 45–70 mm.

Thickness: male 0.14 mm., female, 0.2 mm.

Anterior extremity somewhat enlarged. Cuticle thin and smooth; lateral flanges absent. Mouth simple without lips, but surrounded by a small chitinous peribuccal ring; buccal capsule absent. Near the tip of the tail in each sex there is laterally a pair of small cuticular appendages giving the end of the tail a trifold appearance. Oesophagus divided in two portions: the anterior one measuring 0.36–0.5 mm. in length, and the posterior 0.7–1.01 mm.; sometimes there is no very clear line of demarcation between the two parts.

Male.—Posterior extremity spirally rolled with four pairs of preanal papillae and two pairs of postanal near the anus. Caudal alae absent. The anus is situated about 0.13 mm. from the trifold posterior extremity. Spicules unequal, the larger one measuring 0.16–0.18 mm. and the smaller 0.13–0.14 mm.

Female.—Opistodelphys; ovoviviparous. The vulva is 0.9–1.4 mm. behind the anterior end. The vagina is 0.6 mm. long and directed backward. The anus is situated 0.4 mm. from the posterior end.

Host.—*Didelphys aurita* Wied.

Location.—Subcutaneous tissue.

Geographic distribution.—S. Paulo, Brazil.

Types and cotypes.—Helminthological collection of the Instituto Biologico de S. Paulo, No. 1490. *Paratypes*. U. S. N. Museum helminthological collection No. 32533.

¹ Received September 14, 1933.

² Comp. Rend. Soc. Biol. Paris. 93: 1255. 1925.

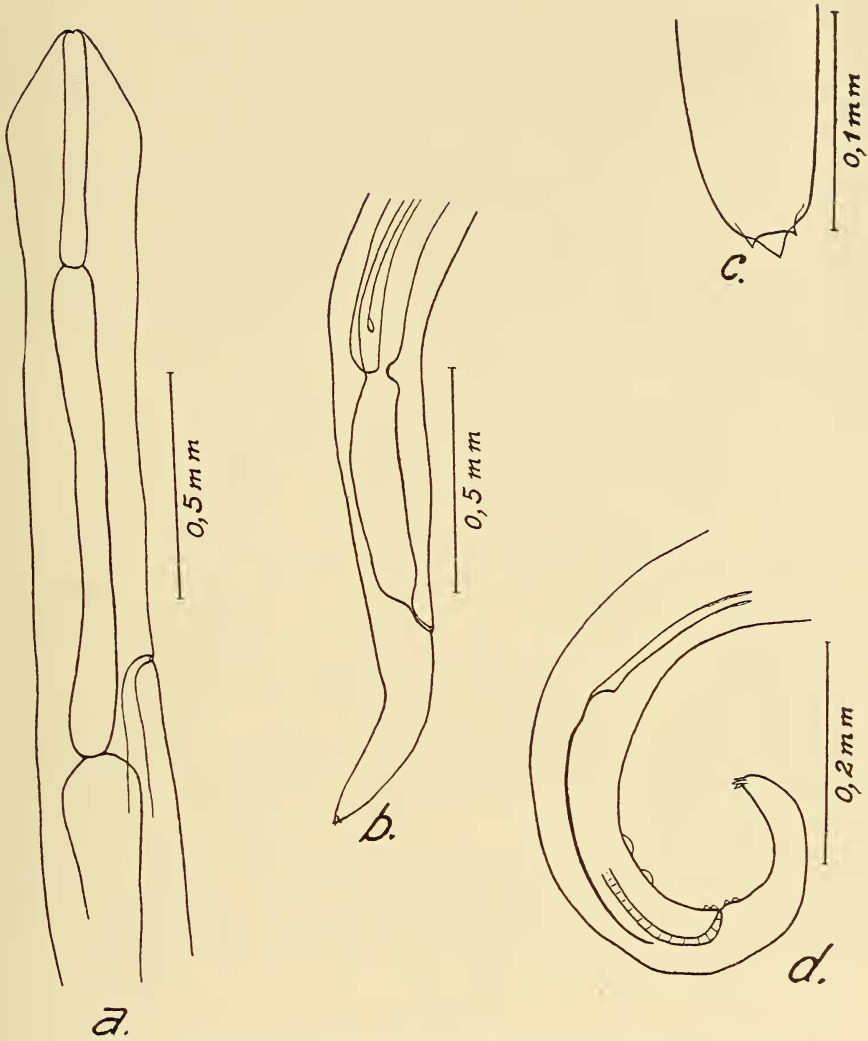


Fig. 1.—*Skrjabinofilaria pricei*. a, anterior end of female; b and c, posterior end of female; d, posterior end of male.

Gongylonema marsupialis n. sp.

Fig. 2.

Two well preserved female specimens and the anterior portion of another are the only material on which our description is based. It is possible that this species is a synonym of a *Gongylonema* already known; we have created it based on differences in the host and the geographic distribution. Only when male specimens have been studied can we say whether this new species is valid or not.

Female.—Length 37 mm. Thickness 0.26 mm. Mouth surrounded by

small dorsal and ventral lips. Cuticle thick, with transverse striations, bearing in the oesophageal region of the body a number of rounded or oval cuticular plaques arranged in three longitudinal rows on the dorsal and ventral parts. Cervical alae symmetrical and relatively broad, extending anteriorly to within 0.31 mm. of the extremity.

The pharynx is very short, measuring 0.049 mm. in length. The muscular portion of the oesophagus measures 0.74–0.8 mm. in length by 0.04 mm. in breadth. We cannot distinguish the posterior glandular portion of this organ. Nervous ring 0.52 mm. from the anterior extremity.

The vulva is situated towards the posterior extremity, 4.2 mm. from the tip of the tail. The short muscular ovejector is directed anteriorly. The uterus is entirely full of numerous little eggs; coils of uterine complex extending near the anus. The anus is situated 0.22–0.24 mm. from the very blunt posterior extremity.

Host.—*Didelphys aurita* Wied.

Location.—Mucous membrane of the oesophagus.

Geographic distribution.—S. Paulo, Brazil.

Allotypes.—Instituto Biologico de S. Paulo helminthological collection No. 1220.

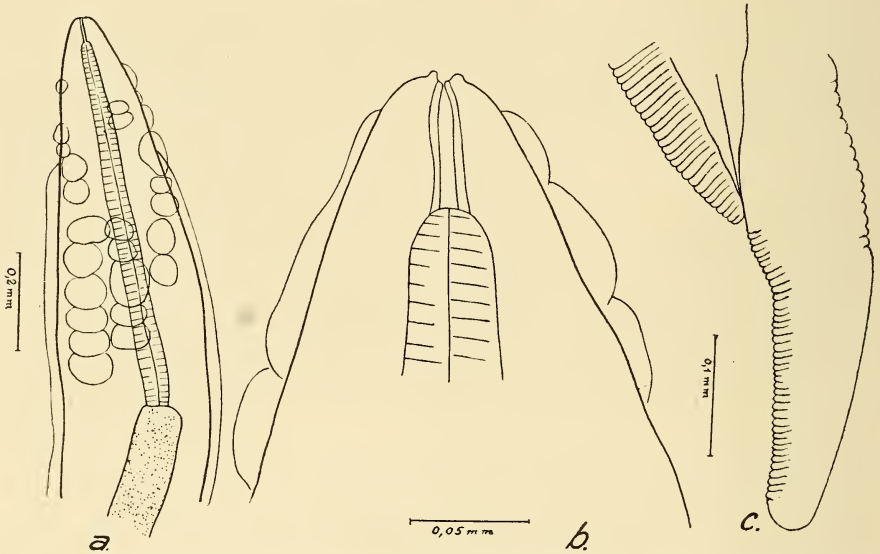


Fig. 2.—*Gongylonema marsupialis*. *a* and *b*, anterior end; *c*, posterior end of female.

ZOOLOGY.—*An annotation on the nematode genus Pontonema Leidy 1855.*¹ N. A. COBB and G. STEINER, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Joseph Leidy described in 1855 and again in 1856 a new genus of free-living nematodes which he called *Pontonema*, and to which he re-

¹ The figures for this paper were prepared by Josephine F. Danforth and Florence M. Albin, and technical assistance was given by Edna M. Buhner, all of the Division of Nematology, Bureau of Plant Industry. Received October 21, 1933.